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BRILLIANT METEORS (SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 2, 1893).

HEALDSBURG, September 30.—“A meteor, apparently twice as large as the full moon, passed from east to north at 7:15 o'clock to-night, bursting into fragments above the mountains to the westward. It burned with a green light, leaving a brilliant trail.”

WALLA WALLA (Wash.), October 2.—“A meteor of extraordinary brilliancy startled this community at 7:40 this evening, passing from the zenith northward to the horizon. It illuminated the heavens like a blinding flash of lightning. It was preceded by a rushing sound, and divided into two parts just before reaching the horizon.”

A USEFUL MAP OF THE MOON.

The most useful map of the Moon for general purposes, which I have seen, especially for quickly finding and identifying lunar formations, is the wall-map of M. C. M. GAUDIBERT, drawn by M. FÉNET and edited by M. FLAMMARION. The craters are numbered on the map and a list on the margin gives their names in the order of the numbers. An alphabetic list of names, giving the number alongside, would be a useful supplement.

The diameter of the Moon is about 25 English inches. The price of the map is \$2.50. E. S. H.

THE BRUCE PHOTOGRAPHIC TELESCOPE.

“The BRUCE photographic telescope, which has so long been in process of construction at ALVAN CLARK & SONS', Cambridgeport, will soon be set up at the Cambridge Observatory, and will probably be in operation in the course of a month, says the Boston *Transcript*. Its completion will mark a new epoch in this branch of science, as it is the largest and is thought to be the most powerful instrument of its kind which has yet been set up. The base and operating machinery are already in place at Cambridge, and the tube and lenses, although still at CLARK's works, are practically completed. It is expected that with this instrument stars can be photographed which have never been seen through the most powerful visual telescopes in the world.

The instrument differs from the ordinary large telescope in the construction of its object lens. The photographic telescopes commonly in use differ but little from an ordinary visual telescope, with an arrangement for the reception of a photographic plate.

This instrument, however, in place of the ordinary lens, composed of two pieces of glass, has a compound lens made of four pieces, which resembles the portrait lens used by photographers. The objective is of 24-inches aperture, and the focal length of the tube is 11 feet. Two smaller instruments constructed on this plan are already in the possession of the Cambridge Observatory, one at Cambridge, and the other in Peru, and have given the greatest satisfaction. They are both of 8-inch aperture, and with them it has been found possible to photograph stars which were not visible through a 15-inch visual telescope. It will therefore be seen that if the new instrument now being constructed should be powerful in the same ratio it will exceed in power a 45-inch telescope of the ordinary kind. As the largest one at present in use is the LICK telescope, which is of 36-inch objective, and the largest anywhere near completion is the great instrument for the University of Chicago, with a 40-inch lens, it is fair to suppose that the BRUCE instrument will photograph stars which can be seen through neither of these. This instrument is superior to the ordinary one, not only in power, but in the extent of sky which can be taken upon a single plate. The ordinary telescope will cover only about 4 degrees at a single exposure, and as there are 40,000 degrees in the whole expanse of the heavens, 10,000 plates would be necessary for a complete report of their whole area. The new telescope will cover six times the area, and will take the whole heavens in 1600 photographs. These photographs, when taken, will not only show many hitherto unknown stars, but will be a valuable and indisputable record of the state of the heavens at the time that they were taken. The whole series could be completed in about a year's time, but it will probably be longer than that before it is finished, as the telescope will be used for other purposes in the meantime.

The building in which the telescope will be placed stands at the back of the main building of the observatory at Cambridge. The base is already in position, as is the fork which is to receive the tube when ready. It looks somewhat like a gigantic tuning-fork slanting upward at a slight angle. Beneath it is the delicate machinery, run by clockwork, which will direct the telescope to any part of the heavens. Near by is a good-sized brick building which has been built specially for the reception and storage of the plates and photographic appliances. On the second floor of this building is the storage-room for the plates. Two large cabinets

run through the center of the room, and are divided into compartments, each capable of holding 100 plates. There are 120 of these compartments, so that each cabinet will hold 12,000 plates. One is devoted to the photographs taken at Cambridge and the other to those taken in Peru. The plates taken by the new instrument will be larger, so that a cabinet with larger compartments has also been prepared, which will hold the result of about a year's work.

The new telescope is the gift of Miss C. W. BRUCE, of New York. It will remain at Cambridge until its capabilities have been thoroughly tested, which will probably be in two or three years, and then will be shipped to its ultimate destination in Peru. Here it will be set up on a hill near Arequipa, where the South American branch of the Harvard Observatory is located.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, October 10, 1893.

MONUMENT TO THE LATE RICHARD ANTHONY PROCTOR.

Mr. PROCTOR died in New York City in 1888, of yellow fever, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, in an unmarked grave. Some of his personal friends in New York proposed to mark his tomb in a suitable manner, when Mr. GEORGE W. CHILDS, of Philadelphia, undertook to bear the whole expense of such a memorial. A committee took the matter in charge, and in October, 1893, the monument was erected and suitably dedicated. A brief account of the ceremonies has been printed, and copies can be obtained from Mr. WILLIAM J. BOK, No. 23 Park Row, New York. E. S. H.

THE CORDOBA *DURCHMUSTERUNG*, — 22° TO — 32°.

“Dr. JOHN THOME, the Director of the Argentine National Observatory, is to be congratulated upon the publication of the Cordoba *Durchmusterung* catalogue, containing the brightness and position of every fixed star, down to the 10th magnitude, comprised in the belt of the heavens between 22° and 32° of South Declination. The results are a continuation of the *Durchmusterungen* of ARGELANDER and SCHOENFELD from their southern limits. In the present volume 179,800 stars are catalogued, but altogether, the places of 340,380 stars have been determined down to —42°. The observations for this great catalogue were begun in 1885 and ended early in 1891. They